

# Allergy Awareness at Coalhurst Elementary School

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. Coalhurst Elementary staff strive to maintain a safe environment for our students and staff by being allergy aware.

It was once believed that the best course of action was simply to ban all potential allergens. Automatic bans are not entirely effective because they do not assist with educating the greater community on the issues and actions needed in case of emergencies. It is also important to note that no school can ever claim to be allergen-free even where bans exist. Coalhurst Elementary School does not have a **school-wide ban** on any products though regional, classroom bans may exist and we will always be responsive to the changing needs of our students and staff. A flexible plan will be developed to support students and staff on a case-by-case basis each school year.

## **Role of Parents:**

All parents of children with severe allergies shall complete a **Medical Alert Form**. This form will summarize the allergy, the appropriate avoidance strategies, and the emergency responses that are supported through the family physician. In the absence of this form the staff do not have the appropriate information to provide the appropriate level of service.

## **Role of the Principal:**

Annually, or as needed, the **principal or designate** will:

1. Review school-wide allergy procedures with all staff including the profiles of all students with allergies.
2. Communicate the emergency protocol to staff for all students with allergies.
3. Communicate our school plan to stakeholders. This plan may include classroom bans on products, school-wide or classroom allergen safe zones, handwashing guidelines, and cleaning guidelines. Consideration will also be given to the strategic placement of students in homerooms so risk of anaphylaxis is reduced (ie. students with pet allergies not placed in the same classroom as students with guide dogs).

## **Role of Teachers:**

Annually, or as needed, **classroom teachers** will:

1. Review and understand the **Medical Alert Forms** of all students under their care.
2. Where applicable, ensure that there is an appropriate plan in place to address emergency situations.
3. Develop a plan for communicating allergen awareness to all parents and students in the classroom being mindful of the right to privacy.

**Role of All Staff:**

All staff have a responsibility to respond in the event of an emergency.

1. The appropriate number of staff will have first aid training. Staff who respond to an emergency are protected under the ***Alberta Emergency Medical Aid Act***.
2. All staff, whether trained in first aid or not, should have an understanding of how to use an EpiPen.
3. All staff will know the whereabouts of epi-pens for each student or know how to access this information.

**Role of Students:**

Students with allergies are their own best ambassadors and the level of personal responsibility shall increase with age and cognitive ability in partnership with parents.